

millions of federal dollars coming to the Virgin Islands are being spent.

This bill was first introduced under the administration of Governor Turnbull and it is revised with respect to the financial management system because, to his credit, its implementation began under his tenure.

In recognition of and deference to the upcoming constitution to be drafted, approved by the Congress and then ratified by the people of the Virgin Islands, the prior bill is further amended in that the term of the Chief Financial Officer will expire at the implementation of the Constitution or in five years, whichever comes sooner.

Proposing this bill as a tool to help my islands better manage its finances has not been an easy journey for me. It has however, become very clear that the people of the Virgin Islands are behind me in this effort because they have long recognized the need for more accountability, transparency, and efficiency in the management of federal and local funds. The implementation of an independent CFO, while not the only way to achieve this, is the only viable proposal that has come forward over the last 10 years or more of increasing deficits and narrowly averted fiscal crises, crises which have only been delayed through repeated borrowing.

Such borrowing and debt creation is what has led to the \$3 billion debt reported by Governor Dejongh last month—a practice he has already stated he will not continue. This office is offered as a way to assist our governor in his stated goal of paying our obligations and bringing the territory's finances into balance, to give apolitical, reliable and trusted information on the financial state of our government, as well as a way to bridge any divisions between the administration and the legislature in the interests of expediting a positive and sustainable agenda for the people of the Virgin Islands.

I thank the Speaker for her support of this important legislation in prior Congresses and ask for her continued support to bring this legislation to passage once again.

#### RECOGNIZING PHILIP WILLIAM ISLEY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Philip William Isley, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 376, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Philip has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Philip has been involved with scouting, he has earned 28 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Troop Guide, Chaplain's Aide, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Patrol Leader. Philip is a Brotherhood Member in the Order of the Arrow and a Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. His tribal name is Silent Crocodile of the North Shore.

Philip planned and directed the landscaping and remodeling of the entrance to the Mount

Memorial Cemetery at William Jewell College. Philip has also added a bench and statue to the landscaping in the cemetery.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Philip William Isley for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT ZION TEMPLE IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mt. Zion's long service as a faith home to generations of Minnesotans deserves special recognition. This year's celebration marks the temple's deep dedication to community, life-long learning, worship and social justice.

Mount Zion Temple has a proud history in Minnesota. Eight Jewish pioneers came together to found Mount Zion Hebrew Congregation in 1856, two years before Minnesota became a state. Now 150 years later, every Reform congregation in the Twin Cities can trace their beginnings to the original congregation of eight families.

Mount Zion has been a pillar not only for the faith community but also for generations of Minnesotans who have been touched by the temple's strong commitment to community involvement. In 1900, members of Mt. Zion founded Neighborhood House, a community center providing advocacy, support, and community building programs to St. Paul. Today, more than 100 years later, the new "Paul and Sheila Wellstone Community Center at Neighborhood House" serves a growing community in St. Paul. Our entire community shares pride in this legacy.

Madam Speaker, recognizing the countless contributions of Mt. Zion Temple to the people of Minnesota during the past 150 years, it is my honor to submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### HONORING KATE P. MORAN RECIPIENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ACADEMY RECOGNITION FOR EDUCATION

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 2, 2007*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kate P. Moran of Alexandria, Virginia, upon her receiving the Commonwealth's Academy Recognition for Educators (CARE) Award.

The CARE Award honors outstanding educators from across the country who are working to enhance the lives of their students. CARE Award recipients are recognized for their unrelenting work to enhance the lives of the students they serve. Kate Moran, a Special Education Coordinator, was honored for

her efforts to construct innovative ways to train special needs youth in Virginia.

Raised in Alexandria, Virginia Ms. Moran is a graduate of TC Williams High School. She went on to receive her Bachelor's of Arts in Theater from Catholic University of America, and received a Master's of Teaching in Special Education from University of Virginia. Currently a resident of Alexandria, Virginia Ms. Moran has taught in the Virginia school system for 6 years.

As a special education coordinator for TC Williams High School, Minnie Howard School, and the Secondary Training and Education Program, she has dedicated her career to educating students with learning disabilities, mental challenges, and health impairments. In her own words, she tries to "meet the needs of students and families by making special education accessible to all types of learners."

Ms. Moran's dedication to her special-needs students is unprecedented. Over the past 6 years she has made a lasting impression on her students giving them the skills and support to lead a fuller, more rewarding life.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Kate Moran and congratulating her on this distinguished achievement.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2007*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 334, which will support the goals and ideals of National Community College Month. This resolution was passed on May 1, 2007 with bipartisan support.

Not only is a college education one of the best investments a person can make, it is the best way to ensure our children and grandchildren have a promising future regardless of socioeconomic status. The typical college graduate earns 80 percent more than a high school graduate, and this can add up to about one million dollars over one's career. Additionally, more educated people tend to have access to better health care, and often enjoy a better quality of life.

For these reasons, I am always looking for ways to improve access to a quality education for our area, and I have found that community colleges are one of the best ways to achieve this. For many years now, I have seen the benefits of these schools, and their collaboration with community partners in our area is critical. Whether it's through training programs or working with local businesses, community colleges focus on areas to make sure that their students have the components they need to be successful.

I am proud that the Congress has decided to honor our country's community colleges, their students, governing boards, faculty, and staff, not only for their contributions to education and workforce development, but for their vital role in ensuring a brighter, stronger future for our country.